

Earth Day 2006

News Release

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EARTH DAY RI AWARDS TWO \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIPS

PROVIDENCE - Earth Day RI has awarded Mark Gould Scholarships of \$1,500 each to two local college students. The recipients are Jessie Dyer of Narragansett and Megan Ann Wright of West Greenwich both currently attending the University of Rhode Island.

To be eligible for a Mark Gould Scholarship, students must attend a Rhode Island school of higher education, major in a field related to the environment, and intend to pursue a career in an environmental field. Dyer and Wright exceed these requirements. They have excellent grades, pursue environmentally related extra-curricular activities and work experiences related to the environment. In addition, both submitted very strong essays as well as solid recommendations.

Jessie Dyer is pursuing a degree in Environmental Science. Ms. Dyer served as an Intern with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a member of the R.I. 2005 Envirothon winning team. For her dedication and enthusiasm for the agency's mission she has been kept on beyond the summer. "Miss Dyer consistently displays a genuine concern for environmental conservation and dedication to improving conservation of Rhode Island's natural resources." Reena L. Shaw, Ph.D., State Agricultural Economist. Beyond classes and work, Ms. Dyer is also part of the Sustainability Study Group at URI.

Megan Ann Wright is majoring in Landscape Architecture, a longtime dream of hers. "To preserve and accentuate existing spaces in the world we live in, to allow them to live up to their true potential is what has truly inspired me." Beyond school she has been an active member of the R.I. 4-H Program and in 2005 attended the National 4-H Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. Combining her experiences of working with younger 4-H members and passion for the environment she currently is employed at W. Alton Jones as a counselor for their environmental summer camp program.

The Mark Gould Scholarship memorializes the late professor, Mark Gould, Ph.D., for his work in marine biology, which he integrated to the practical realms of business and

environmental policy. He earned his doctorate in plant pathology/entomology from the University of Rhode Island and was an ecology professor who founded and directed the Center for Economic and Environmental Development at Roger Williams University.

Earth Day RI supports and promotes year round environmental education and awareness in the Ocean State. The organization encourages Rhode Islanders to raise their environmental consciousness by committing to "Take 3" steps to improve their environment. "Take 3" is a call to action which suggests dozens of ways to save energy, conserve water, reduce waste and respect nature. For further information about Take 3 and other Earth Day RI-sponsored programs and activities, please visit www.earthdayri.org.